

Socialist Worker

STRIKE
BULLETIN
NUMBER 1
Monday 18th May

It's right to strike!

LOCAL authority and health workers are right to strike. The present deal means extra productivity and hardship for workers.

For **CRAFT WORKERS** it means more 'flexibility' — or doing the job of others.

The 'Main Trade Makes Good' system gives managers a blank cheque to have you at their beck and call.

They can use contractors when they want.

For **GENERAL WORKERS** it means that you can be moved to other hospitals in the Eastern Health Board 'under protest'.

It means changes in the rosters with earlier starts and later finishes.

It means accepting yellow pack labour that is paid 87.5% of the starting rate.

And it does nothing about the terrible pension scheme.

The union leaders who negotiated this deal will not have to work the productivity measures themselves.

They are out of touch.

The strikes across the country show that workers have had enough.

The revolt of the rank and file has begun.

Now is the time to turn on the pressure and spread the action.

Remember: The boom in the Celtic Tiger is not going to last.

If we don't make gains today—we will find it far harder when the recession comes.

PRESS HYPOCRISY

The press are screaming about 'wildcat action' putting the lives of patients at risk. They do not say that workers have always provided emergency cover.

Last Friday, the anaesthetists held their annual conference and many operations were cancelled. Did you see any headlines saying 'Heart Operations cancelled because over-paid consultants have a meeting'?

Since 1987, there has been a 40% cut in the number of hospital beds. This is the highest cut in Europe. These cuts do far more damage to patients than strike action.

UNION DEMOCRACY

The union leaders claim that the strikers are ignoring 'union democracy'. That is a real joke.

Workers voted by 20 to one to tell their negotiators to get the full claim with no strings attached — or else organise strike action. But a small number of officials called off the strike without consulting anyone. Why was there not a vote on this?

WHICH WAY NOW?

Last Thursday night 250 shop stewards and union activists attended a meeting in the Mid West Region to discuss the next stage in the struggle. There were delegates there from Limerick, Ennis, Thurles and Nenagh.

This meeting called for a **National Stoppage on Friday 22nd of May**. We should organise now for a huge shut down then and support a big demonstration in Dublin on the day.

The union leaders are hoping that Dublin will not be as strong as the rest of the country. It is part of the old trick of divide and rule.

We need a strike activists meeting like the one which happened in Limerick. Shop stewards of the craft and general workers should get together to organise this.

A **Dublin wide meeting of rank and file strike representatives** should be held this week to organise the action and plan strategy.

Now tell them how you feel!

Today Monday there is a meeting of the Dublin Health Services Branch of SIPTU in Liberty Hall at 2.30 pm. The union leaders will try to get the Branch Committee to sell the deal.

We should get down there and tell them how we feel. It is time to take the unions back for the members.

Join the socialists

It is only the socialists who are standing up for workers rights today. That is why tens of thousands already voted for the Socialist Workers Party member Carolann Duggan when she ran in recent SIPTU election.

If you are fed up with how the Celtic Tiger has given us nothing and want some real change, get involved by filling out this form:

Join the Socialist Workers Party

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

☐ I want to join the SWP

☐ I want more details

☐ I want to receive Socialist Worker regularly

Return to SWP PO
Box 1648, Dublin 8,
Tel (01) 872 2682